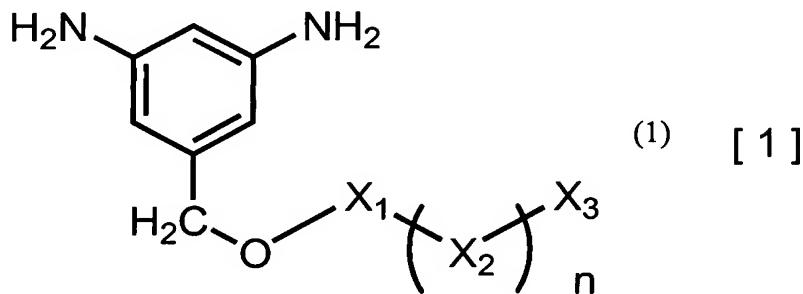


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A diaminobenzene derivative represented by the formula (1):



wherein X_1 and X_2 are each independently a monocyclic group selected from a benzene ring, a cyclohexane ring and a heterocyclic ring, wherein optional hydrogen atom(s) on the monocyclic group may be substituted by substituent(s) selected from the group consisting of a C_{1-3} alkyl group, a C_{1-3} alkoxy group, a C_{1-3} fluoroalkyl group, a C_{1-3} fluoroalkoxy group, a ~~fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom~~ and a cyano group; n is an integer of 0 or 1; and when $n = 0$, and X_3 is a member selected from the group consisting of a C_{1-32} alkyl group, a C_{1-32} alkoxy group, a C_{1-32} fluoroalkyl group, a ~~fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom~~ and a cyano group, and when $n = 1$, X_3 is a member selected from the group consisting of a C_{1-32} alkyl group, a C_{1-32} alkoxy group, a C_{1-32} fluoroalkyl group, a C_{1-32} fluoroalkoxy group, a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a bromine atom and a cyano group.

Claim 2 (Original): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), X_1 is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring, X_2 is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring, and n is 1.

Claim 3 (Original): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), X_1 is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring, X_2 is a benzene ring, and n is 1.

Claim 4 (Original): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 1, wherein in the formula (1), X_1 is a benzene ring or a cyclohexane ring, X_2 is a cyclohexane ring, and n is 1.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 2, wherein X_3 is an organic group selected from the group consisting of a C_{5-12} alkyl group, a C_{5-12} alkoxy group, a C_{5-8} fluoroalkyl group, and a C_{5-8} fluoroalkoxy group.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as defined in Claim 1.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as defined in Claim 6.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 3 wherein X_3 is an organic group selected from the group consisting of a C_{5-12} alkyl group, a C_{5-12} alkoxy group, a C_{5-8} fluoroalkyl group and a C_{5-8} fluoroalkoxy group.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The diaminobenzene derivative according to Claim 4 wherein X_3 is an organic group selected from the group consisting of a C_{5-12} alkyl group, a C_{5-12} alkoxy group, a C_{5-8} fluoroalkyl group and a C_{5-8} fluoroalkoxy group.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 2.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 3.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 4.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A polyimide precursor or a polyimide obtained by reaction of an acid dianhydride with a diamine starting material comprising any one diaminobenzene derivative as claimed in Claim 5.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 10.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 11.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 12.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): A liquid crystal alignment agent comprising at least one of the polyimide precursor and the polyimide as claimed in Claim 13.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal alignment layer film made of the liquid crystal alignment agent as claimed in Claim 7.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal alignment layer film made of the liquid crystal alignment agent as claimed in Claim 14.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A liquid crystal device comprising the alignment layer film as claimed in Claim 18.